

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
ITO, Tadahiko

32nd Floor, Yebisu Garden Place
Tower, 20-3, Ebisu
4-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
1506032 Japan

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43 bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	14.02.2006
-------------------------------------	------------

Applicant's or agent's file reference
R05224PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No. PCT/JP2005/022504	International filing date (day/month/year) 01.12.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.12.2004
--	--	--

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
Int.Cl. *B41J2/165 (2006.01), B41J2/01 (2006.01)*

Applicant
RICOH COMPANY, LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Date of completion of this opinion		03.02.2006	
Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan		Authorized officer	2P 9110
		Toshihiko OSAKI Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3261	

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/022504

Box No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/022504

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	6, 8, 9	YES
	Claims	1-5, 7	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations:

D1:JP 2004-284084 A (RICOH COMPANY, LTD.) 2004.10.14, paragraph 0016-0104, figures 1-9 (family none)
D2:JP 2003-231265 A (CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA) 2003.08.19, claims 1, 4, 6, 7, paragraph 0012-0059, figures 1-8 (family none)
D3:JP 2004-182392 A (RICOH COMPANY, LTD.) 2004.07.02, paragraph 0023-0037, figures 1-4 (family none)
D4:JP 2000-246981 A (RICOH COMPANY, LTD.) 2000.09.12, claim 2, paragraph 0019-0059, figures 1-16 (family none)

The subject matter of claims 1-5 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of the D1 cited in the ISR and the D2 cited in the same.

D1 discloses the image forming apparatus comprising the recording head, the electrostatic adsorption conveyer and the cleaning device.

D2 discloses the cleaning device of the ink-jet printer, which is the technical feature of the invention of claims 1-5.

Technical features disclosed in D1 and D2 respectively are related to similar technical fields. Therefore, the skilled person in the art would easily conceive the idea of employing the cleaning device in D2 to substitute the cleaning device disclosed in D1.

The subject matter of claim 7 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of the D1, D2, and D3 or D4, cited in the ISR.

D3 and D4 disclose, respectively, the method to control the electrostatic adsorption conveyer, which is described in claim 7.

The subject matter of claims 6, 8, 9 is neither disclosed in any of the documents cited in the ISR nor obvious to a person skilled in the art.